Philosophy 3: Critical Thinking

MWF 10-10:50 HFH 1104
Spring 2009

Instructor: John Chandler
jchandler@umail.ucsb.edu
5720 South Hall
Office Hours: M 11-1 and by appt.

TAs:
Alex Bundy
bundy@umail.ucsb.edu
Office: South Hall 5432N
Office Hours: F 11-1 and by appt.
Sections: W 9-10, 434 0121;   F 1-2, BSIF 1217

Hui Yuhl Yi
huiyuhl@gmail.com
Office: South Hall 5432W
Office Hours: M 12-2 and by appt.
Sections: M 11-11:50, 434 0121;   M 2-2:50, Girv 1116

Course Description

The capacity for reason is a distinctive human trait. Whether wrangling over how to interpret some scientific data or thinking through the implications of a considered action, the reasoning aspect of our existence is pervasive. But we don't always reason well. Sometimes we are intellectually sloppy. Other times we are lured in and tricked by charlatans. It would be nice to know how about the general nature of how to reason, at least to avoid being duped in the world. To that end we will consider the basic concepts of argumentation, spend some time exposing fallacious reasoning patterns, and develop a simple system of natural deduction for modeling the logic of statements. If all goes well, you will have a basic grasp of the tools of logic and a sharper mind. If things flop, there will be weeping, gnashing of teeth, and loathing of all things formal.

Text

The Power of Logic 4th ed., by Howard-Snyder, Howard-Snyder, and Wasserman.

(Please note: the 1st-3rd editions of this text were written by a different author, Layman. If you are relying on an older version, make sure you do the homework out of the 4th edition.)

Website: http://www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil3/
The slides, homework assignments, and final review can be accessed through the philosophy department website. Click on Courses and then on Downloadable Syllabi at the top. My general practice will be to post the slides the night before the relevant lecture. I reserve the right to not do so. You are encouraged to consult them as they become available.

Slides

To do well in this course, you will need to come to class. Familiarity with only the slides is not enough.   Don't be under the illusion that the slides provide a complete but miniaturized model for the content of the course. They are merely supplemental.

Requirements

Participation **10**%
Homework **20**%
Midterm 1 **20**%
Midterm2 **20**%
Final **30**%

The HW is credit / no-credit. No late homework will be accepted.

Tentative Schedule

Start: Monday March 30th
End: Friday June 5th

<u>Unit I</u>

Week 1 Basic Concepts / Counterexamples Chapter 1 (Mar 30, Apr 1, 3)

Week 2 Counterexamples Chapter 1 (Apr 6, 8, 10)

Week 3 Logic and Language Chapter 3 (Apr 13, 15, 17)

Unit I Midterm: Monday 4/20

Unit II

Week 4 Fallacies Chapter 4 (Apr 22, 24)

Week 5 Fallacies / Truth Tables Chapter 7 (Apr 27, 29, May 1)

Week 6 Truth Tables Chapter 7 (May 4, 6, 8)

Unit II Midterm: Friday 5/15

Unit III

Holiday: Monday May 25th

Week 7 Statement Logic Chapter 8 (May 11, 13)

Week 8 Statement Logic Chapter 8 (May 18, 20, 22)

Week 9   Probability and Logic Chapter 11 (May 27, 29)

Week 10 Probability and Logic Chapter 11 (June 1, 3, 5)

Final: Monday 6/8   8-11am